



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2008 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95811

General Deer Hunting Information For **ZONE D-12** (No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone D-12 located in portions of Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

Inland Deserts Region Office (Region 6), 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764 (909-484-0167) encompassing Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:
<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.asp>

The 2008 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone D-12 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone D-12, hunters must possess a Zone D-12 deer tag. This tag is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take.

Additionally, Archery Only #1 Tags (AO#1) and Archery Only #2 Tags (AO#2) are valid during the Zone D-12 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone D-12 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the 2008 Hunting Digest, available on-line at:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone D-12 contains a mixture of public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. There are numerous private holdings throughout the zone, which may or may not be posted, however the majority of Zone D-12 consists of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For

information regarding these lands contact the following:

BLM Offices:

El Centro Field Office, 1661 South Fourth Street, El Centro CA 92243 (760-337-4400)

Needles Field Office, 1303 S. Hwy 95, Needles, CA 92363 (760-326-7000)

Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, 690 W. Garnet Ave., P.O. Box 581260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260 (760-251-4800)

Fourteen wilderness areas are found within Zone D-12. Hunting is allowed in these wilderness areas, but vehicles are not. Hunting is not permitted in the West Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range located in northern Imperial County, as well as the Joshua Tree National Park located in Riverside County.

In Zone D-12 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/zonemapsinfo.html>

The most comprehensive maps of the area are BLM surface management maps. However, because Zone D-12 covers such a large area, several maps may be needed to depict it entirely. BLM maps of use to Zone D-12 hunters include: Yuma, Trigo Mountains, Salton Sea, and El Centro. BLM surface management maps can be purchased at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

There are a number of roadways available to access Zone D-12. In the north, the zone is bounded by State Highway 62 and US Highway 95, both of which provide access to improved and unimproved roads. Access roads in the northern areas of the zone include the Havasu Landing Road, State Highway 62, US Highway 95, and the Rice Valley Road, which is partially paved. Interstate Highway 10 runs east/west through the zone, while State Highway 78 runs south and west through the zone and provides access to several maintained dirt roads such as Milpitas Wash and the Bradshaw Trail. In the extreme southern end of the zone, Ogilby Road runs south from State Highway 78 to US Highway 8 and provides access to Indian Pass Road as well as the Hyduke Mine Road. The zone is bounded on the east by Highway 111. Throughout the zone numerous unimproved dirt roads provide good access, but it is strongly suggested that the open route maps be obtained from BLM prior to venturing into the zone to avoid any conflicts.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. During general hunting season in November, usually pleasant conditions prevail, but occasional warm or cold temperatures can occur. Hunters should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone D-12 encompasses a large geographic area with topography ranging from flat in the lower elevation to extremely steep and rocky in the mountain ranges. Most services are located within the various cities and towns scattered along the main highways, including Needles, Blythe, Brawley, El Centro, and Yuma, Arizona. Hunters are advised to have full gasoline tanks when entering the field and to carry a shovel, serviceable spare tire, and extra food and water. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are strongly recommended and should be used when traveling on unimproved roads and sandy desert washes within the zone. Be sure to use extra caution when driving off-road, and check with BLM regarding any vehicle travel

restrictions that may be in place.

CAMPING

Most of the area is open for camping, but hunters should check with BLM for restrictions.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source on public lands within California; or any wildlife watering place such as waterholes, springs, seeps and man-made watering devices within the California Desert Conservation Area on BLM land is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

Population trends for the deer herd in Zone D-12 are generally stable. Short-term fluctuations in Zone D-12 deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production, the availability of water and fawn survival.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone D-12 is the Burro or Desert mule deer. While population trends remain stable, these are desert mule deer and the number of bucks taken is usually low. Hunter success remains around 3 to 5 percent. Nevertheless, a few trophy bucks are taken each year.

The vegetation in Zone D-12 is comprised of numerous desert plant communities ranging from desert dunes and desert scrub to riparian forests and Joshua tree woodlands. Deer are usually dispersed throughout the zone, but are most commonly found in washes that contain iron wood and palo verde vegetation.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Deer in this desert environment occur in scattered populations at extremely low densities which are generally associated with permanent water sources. Deer populations may disperse somewhat following periods of significant rainfall that have resulted in flushes of vegetation. After opening day of the season and due to hunter pressure, some deer may move into the mountains and rocky areas. The majority of deer in Zone D-12 are taken south of Interstate 10, and a small number of deer are harvested in the Whipple Mountains and Riverside Mountains north of Interstate 10.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/docs/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2008, there are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone D-12.

2008 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(11) Zone D-12.

(A) Area: Those portions of Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino counties within a line beginning at Highway 62 and the Twentynine Palms-Amboy Road in Twentynine Palms; east along Highway 62 to Highway 95 at Vidal Junction; north on Highway 95 to Interstate 40; east on Interstate 40 to the California-Arizona state line; south along this state line to the U.S.-Mexican border; west along the U.S.-Mexican border to Highway 111 in Calexico; north on Highway 111 to Interstate 10; north and west on Interstate 10 to Highway 62; north and east on Highway 62 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone D-12 shall open on the first Saturday in November and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 950.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(4) D Zones.

(D) Zone D-12.

1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(11)(A).

2. Season: The archery season in Zone D-12 shall open on the first Saturday in October and extend for 23 consecutive days.

3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****